

REMARKS ON FOREGOING LIST OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

The authority refers to the species name only.—The first column indicates the No. of the species in this list, for future reference; the *third*, the No. of the species in Gould's Handbook, or references to other works; the remainder show the distribution of the different species over Australia; the last to the South portion of New Guinea, and has been compiled from collections made at Yule Island, Katow, Port Moresby, Fly River and China Straits, &c., by D'Albertis, Goldie, the Macleay Expedition, Pettard and Broadbent, and the Revs. Messrs. McFarlane and Lawes. Since the publication of Mr. Gould's Handbook in 1865, the territorial boundaries of the different colonies have altered considerably, so that the range of the different species can be but indefinitely expressed by such wide terms as "Victoria," "Queensland," "New South Wales," &c.; large portions of the country formerly known as N. S. W., now belong to Queensland; and many other changes have taken place. I have therefore given the particular localities in which most of our large collections have been made, purposely to show the spread of certain species. In instances, where the particular species has not to my knowledge been obtained in these localities, a more comprehensive habitat, as the names of the Colonies in which they are found, has been resorted to.

Where any confusion through the choice of names is likely to occur, that previously in use among Australian ornithologists has been given in italics.

The small sketch map accompanying this list shows the boundaries of the Colonies as they now stand, and the position of the other localities mentioned.

The number of species enumerated in Mr. Gould's Handbook as inhabiting Australia in 1865 was 672 in all. This number has been increased of late years by the discoveries of new species, and by occasional visitors from other countries, to 744, most of which are enumerated from North-east Australia or Queensland.



120

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New Guinea

Torres Str.

Louisville Ad. I.

Clarence R. Port Darwin

Gulf of Carpentaria

Port Darwin

Troby B. Richmond E. Mendenhall

Pyln I.

ALEXANDRA LAND

Northern Territory

Herbert R. Bowen

Wentworth R. Denton

Rockhampton

Wepple B.

Fitzroy R.

QUEENSLAND

Wide B.

Brisbane

Richmond N.

Clarence R.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES

INTERIOR

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth

AUSTRALIA

Wales

Sydney Port Jackson

Adelaide

VICTORIA

Melbourne

Col. R. B. Ballantyne

Marsden

Basin Str.

TASMANIA

Southern Ocean

AUSTRALIA

110

115

120

125

130

135 Long

140 East

145 Green

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are enumerated from north-east Australia or Queensland.

But while not a few new species have been brought to light, we find only one strictly *new genus*—that of *Scenopæus*, belonging to the family of *Bower-builders*, among which may also be included the “Satin bird” *Ptilonorhynchus*; *Ailurædus*, *Chlamydodera* and the “Regent bird” *Sericulus melinus*.

Our knowledge of the range of many species, previously known, only from the locality in which they were first discovered, has been of late years, greatly augmented, by collections made by Messrs. Masters, Spalding, Thorpe, Rainbird, Pettard, and Broadbent; during my own excursions in North East Australia, I was enabled to identify, nearly three hundred species from the vicinity of Rockingham Bay alone, which, from the diversified nature of its Flora, and style of country in general, is perhaps the richest district in Australia; it is the only part of Northern Queensland, the scrubs of which at all approach, to those rich brushes or scrubs of the Richmond River.

Small collections have been recently made at the Gulf of Carpentaria, and surrounding districts, by Messrs. Broadbent, Gulliver, and Inspector Armit; but little or nothing has been added to our knowledge of the avifauna of the interior or North West Coast. One of Mr. Macleay’s collectors, Edward Spalding, has done good work at Port Darwin, but as yet I am only aware of one *new species* having been obtained there. From Western Australia, since the publication of Mr. Gould’s Hand-book, not a single new species peculiar to that region, has been obtained.

As yet I have not seen the following, but judging from the descriptions alone, given in a newspaper report, of a paper read before the Philosophical Society of Queensland, I regret to say, they appear to me to have been all previously described. *Acanthiza flavigaster*, (*Diggles*) = *Gerygone albogularis*, (*Gould*). *Cuculus brisbanensis*, (*Diggles*) = young of *Cuculus optatus*, (*Gould*), (*C. canoroides*, *Mull*). *Lamprococeyx modesta*, (*Diggles*) = young of *L. basalis*. *Milvus striatus*, (*Diggles*) = *Henicopernis longicauda*, the *Falco longicauda* of Garnot.*

* Mr. Diggles has kindly forwarded me the description and a drawing of his bird, which leaves no doubt in my mind as to its identity.

Eulabeornis griseoventris, Diggles. *Cinnyris aspasixæ*, *Ceyx solitarius*, with *Henicopernis longicauda*, are said to have been obtained near Cape York, but are of doubtful origin. Mr. Cockerell's large collection was made at the Aru Islands, where these species were probably collected. We must have therefore, some more authentic proof of their being obtained on the Australian Continent, before they are admitted into our list of birds; nevertheless it is not improbable that *Henicopernis longicauda*, *Ceyx solitarius*, and *Cinnyris aspasixæ* may yet be found on the Australian Continent, as we have authentic specimens from Port Moresby, on the South Coast of New Guinea; but until we have some further information on this point I do not consider it right that we should admit them as Australian, especially as the only collection in which they have been found, was undoubtedly from the Aru Islands, where these birds are common.

ACANTHIZA BUCHANANI; *Vig. & Horsf. Trans. Linn., Soc. XV., p. 227.*

I have never seen this species, nor can I find any bird answering the description given under this name; no habitat is given with the description.

TRICHOGLOSSUS VERREUXI, *Bp. Rev. et. Mag. Zool. (1854), p. 157.*
G. R. Gray, List. Psitt. (1859), p. 61; Finsch, Papag. II, p. 846.

This species, if a true species, is certainly not Australian, unless it be a *gag*-bird perhaps of *T. concinnus*, of which I have seen several, variegated with yellow on the breast, neck and back.

EOPSALTRIA MAGNIROSTRIS, *Ramsay.*

Eopsaltria chrysorrhous, Gould; fol. vol. III., pl. 11.

The true *E. australis*, *Muscicapa australis* of Latham, is confined to the South-eastern and South portion of Australia, and may be distinguished by the *dull wax-yellow* of the rump. See *P. Z. S.*, 1868, p. 384. *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) IV., pp. 108, 109.*

MALURUS LEUCONOTUS, *Gould.* MALURUS CALLAINUS, *Gould.*

The habitat of these species is the interior of South Australia.

AMYTIS MACROURUS, *Gould*, is found in the central portion of Western Australia.

MALURUS AMABILIS, *Gould*, is the adult male, of which *Malurus hypoleucos*, *GOULD*, is the young male and the adult female plumage.

In a list of birds from the Gulf of Carpentaria (see *P. L. S. of N. S. W.*, vol. IV., p. 379), received by Le Comte de Castelnau; a typographical error was made in our remarks on this species, as the context and sense of the passage will show, for the word "female" *young male* should have been written. Our specimen in change of plumage from that of the so-called *M. hypoleucos* to that of *M. amabilis* could not possibly be a female. We have since obtained young birds, said to be females, in the *brown* plumage, characteristic of that sex of this genus; they agree well with the plate of the female given by Mr. Gould in his *Supp. to Bds. of Australia*, pl. 29, but may be the females of a variety of *M. lamberti*, the figure representing the male is that of the *young male* of *M. amabilis*.

PTILOTIS GRACILIS, *Gould*.

Ptilotis notata, *Gould*, *Supp. Bds. Aust.*, pl. 41.

Notwithstanding Mr. Gould's remarks respecting these species I consider them to be identical with *P. similis*, of MM. *Hombroton* and *Jacquinet*, a very variable species both in size, and in the extent and shape of the yellow patch on the ear coverts, as well as in the length of the bill, and of the narrow yellow stripe from the angle of the mouth to under the eye; in some of the numerous specimens examined, one from *Rockingham Bay*, has this stripe almost obsolete; Mr. Gould mentions a specimen of *P. notata* from *Dunk Island*, which is opposite *Rockingham Bay*, but I find, that specimens from this district agree so well with the original description of *P. similis* of *Homb. et Jacq. (Voyage au Pôle. Sud., sp. 46)*, that there can be no doubt of all three being mere varieties of one and the same species, which will of course retain the name of *Ptilotis similis*. Its range extends from *Rockingham Bay*, north to *New Guinea*. The following are the measurements of one of the smaller specimens in the *Dobroyde* collection. Total length 5·2 in. to tip of bill; bill 0·8, wing 2·7, tail 2·2, tarsi 0·7.

I notice “? *Astur cruentus*, Gould;” has been reported by Salvadori and D’Albertis from New Guinea. This will probably be *A. approximans*, of which there are several stages of plumage, or perhaps it may be a new species. I feel convinced it is not the true *A. cruentus* of Gould.

Podargus megacephalus, LATHAM. I have never seen this bird, nor is it to be found in any collections in Australia.

APROSMICTUS INSIGNISSIMUS, Gould, P. Z. S., 1875 (April), p. 315.

This is merely a *lus. nat.* of *A. scapulatus* (*cyanopygius*). I have frequently observed patches of yellow feathers in the plumage of this species. When last in the Richmond River district I shot one with a patch of yellow on the abdomen, and another with yellow feathers on the back of the head; there is one now in the Australian Museum with a row of yellow feathers on the upper wing coverts, and another with a yellow tinge pervading the whole of the upper surface. Mr. Shaw, who shot the bird described by Mr. Gould, informed me that it had paired with a female in the ordinary plumage of that sex of *A. scapulatus*.

CACATUA GOFFINI, Finsch.

There is no authentic record of this species having been obtained in Australia.

PTILINOPUS (*Lamprotreron*) PORPHYROSTICTUS, Gould.

Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) 1874, No. 74, p. 137.

The females of *Ptilinopus superbus* of Temminck, agree exactly with the description of *P. porphyrostictus*, Gould, given in the Annals above quoted. I have also compared and examined a large series of skins of *P. superbus*, in all stages of plumage, from various localities; from Port Denison, Rockingham Bay, Cape York, and Duke of York Island, &c.; the adult females are always alike, but the young of both sexes differ, particularly the young males. After a careful examination of over 200 skins of Ptilinopi from the above-mentioned places, I can find none answering to Mr. Gould’s description, which can be separated from the females of *Ptilinopus superbus*, Temm.; if Mr. Gould’s bird, then, is really distinct, I can only say, his description fails to point out wherein it differs.

TRIBONYX MORTIERI, *Du Bus.*

Tribonyx gouldii, Sclater, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3), Vol. xx., p. 123.

Having examined a large series of this species from Tasmania, I can testify that Mr. Gould is perfectly correct in figuring the adult bird *without any white markings* on the wings; the immature birds (*T. gouldii*, Sclater) have white tips to the upper and under wing-coverts, but those on the upper coverts at least, are lost in the adult. With respect to the size of this species, I give the following measurements of an adult from Tasmania. Total length 16·8, wing 8·5, tail 4·5, tarsi 3·3, mid-toe without nail 2·9. There is no *authentic* record of the bird being found in Western Australia.

HYPOTENIDIA AUSTRALIS, *A. von Pelzel*n; *Ibis*, 1874, pp. 4, 43.

I regret to say I have no opportunity of consulting the number of the "Ibis" referred to, our copy being imperfect.

ANAS GIBBERIFRONS, *Mull.*

I have never met with this species, although said to have been obtained both in North and South Australia,* which I think very improbable.

I here transcribe Mr. Buller's description for the benefit of our readers, trusting, should any of them meet with the bird in the flesh, they will not fail to record the *full particulars* of its capture in our "Proceedings."

ANAS GIBBERIFRONS, *Mull.*

ANAS GRACILIS, *Buller*, *Ibis*, 1869, pp. 41, 42.

"Upper surface dusky-brown with greenish reflections; the feathers of the back and scapulars narrowly margined with fuscous white; the outer portion of the upper wing-coverts pure white, forming a conspicuous bar across the wing; the secondaries velvety black, narrowly tipped with fulvous, and a speculum of shining green occupying the outer vane of the three middle ones; crown and nape blackish-brown, minutely marked with

* "*Ibis*," 1869, *Note pp.* 42, 380; *also* 1870, p. 459.

fulvous-white; throat, fore neck, and sides of the head fulvous-white, the latter marked with saggitate spots of brown; under parts light fulvous-brown, with obscure spots of a darker shade, especially on the breast and sides, each feather having a broad, central mark of blackish-brown; throat and abdomen more or less tinged with bright ferrugineous; bill dark brown, outer portion of the lower mandible, yellow; feet, pale brown."

"Length, 17 inches; expanse, 25·5; wing from flexure, 8; tail, 4; tarsi, 1·25; middle toe and claw, 1·75; bill, along the ridge, 1·5; along the edge of lower mandible, 1·75.

♀ Length, 15·5; expanse, 23·5; wing from flexure, 7·5; tail, 3·5."

TRINGA CANUTA, *Linn.*

Of this species I have examined three Australian shot individuals, two from Wide Bay, and one from Victoria; several others were reported to me, as having been observed in the Melbourne markets, along with *Chladorhynchus pectoralis* and other scarce species.

HYDROCHELIDON LEUCOPTERA *Meisner & Schinz.*

Mr. Howard Saunders states (P. Z. S., 1876, p. 642), that this species has been obtained in Australia and New Zealand, but does not give any localities.

I have never seen, or heard of the bird being found, on our coasts, and should be glad of more definite information on the subject.

The bird which I refer to (sp. 681) as *Sterna dougalli*, agrees well with Mr. Gould's figure of *S. gracilis*, but has a longer tail and the whole of the bill jet black, even to the very base.

For corrections in the nomenclature I am indebted to valuable papers by the following gentlemen: Messrs. R. B. Sharpe (*Hawks and Owls*), J. E. Harting (*Plovers*), Howard Saunders (*Terns*), and to the following works: Sharpe's Catalogues of "*Accipitres*" and "*Striges*," Dr. Finsch's "*Die Papageien*," The